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SENATE MEMORIAL 38

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2008

INTRODUCED BY

Linda M. Lopez

A MEMORIAL

ENCOURAGING BERNALILLO COUNTY TO INITIATE A TRANSITIONAL
HOUSING PROGRAM FOR WOMEN RECOVERING FROM SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND
REQUESTING STATE AGENCIES TO BECOME PARTNERS IN THE PROJECT
WITH THE COUNTY.

WHEREAS, providing the clients of substance abuse
treatment programs with gender-specific treatments has resulted
in longer and more successful treatments; and

WHEREAS, the tendency of women to leave treatment earlier
than men has been attributed to the inability of treatment
programs to meet their complex medical, social and emotional
needs; and

WHEREAS, effective substance abuse treatment for women
helps halt a downward spiral that, if left unchecked, may
result in increased criminal activity; and

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1 WHEREAS, such programs are fundamental to public safety,
2 preventing crime and protecting potential victims of crime; and

3 WHEREAS, substance abuse treatment programs for women with
4 children that address women's unique needs, including their
5 relationships with their partners, families and children and
6 any history of physical and sexual abuse, are more effective
7 than traditional programs and have the additional benefit of
8 assisting the children of those women; and

9 WHEREAS, there is no gender-specific long-term
10 transitional housing program for women and their children that
11 serves the state of New Mexico; and

12 WHEREAS, the unique substance abuse treatment needs of
13 women include child care services, women-only treatment and
14 prenatal care; and

15 WHEREAS, limited access to child care services is one of
16 the most frequently cited barriers to treatment of women
17 seeking treatment, and programs that allow women to bring their
18 children into residential treatment experience greater lengths
19 of stay; and

20 WHEREAS, the children of addicted parents have the highest
21 risk of abusing alcohol and drugs due to both genetic and
22 environmental factors; and

23 WHEREAS, a strong correlation has been documented between
24 parental addiction and child abuse and neglect; and

25 WHEREAS, the children of addicted parents are at higher

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1 risk for being abandoned at birth, being placed in foster care,
2 running away from home and becoming homeless; and

3 WHEREAS, the children of addicted parents experience
4 physical and mental health problems at a greater rate than
5 children of non-addicted parents;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
7 OF NEW MEXICO that Bernalillo county be encouraged to develop a
8 transitional housing and substance abuse treatment program for
9 women with children that will address their unique needs and
10 create a positive living environment during the rehabilitation
11 process; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the children, youth and
13 families department, the human services department and the
14 department of health be requested to consider joining
15 Bernalillo county in the identification of sources for funding
16 for and the development and ultimate implementation of such a
17 program; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
19 transmitted to the county manager of Bernalillo county and to
20 the secretaries of children, youth and families; human
21 services; and health.